

# BIOPHILIC DESIGN - MAINSTREAMING THROUGH THE PLANNING SYSTEM.

**Biophilic design is a concept that reconnects humans and nature to help create a more sustainable and healthier built environment.**

### Research Question

*How does Biophilic Design, in the form of innovative green structures and systems, become embedded into the mainstream planning system?*

### Methodology

*This research uses a qualitative approach with case studies as the main method.*

*Using a number of different case studies, the research will investigate transition pathways to adapt biophilic strategies and solutions in medium and high density urban environments.*

*To fulfil the requirements of the hybrid PhD thesis, the proposed academic papers will be based on site visits, document analysis and semi-structured interviews. The process uses qualitative inquiry to identify innovative systems, their impact and implementation in urban planning policies.*

### Objectives

**1. To propose evidence-based guidelines and recommendations**

*for industry, local governments and urban designers.*

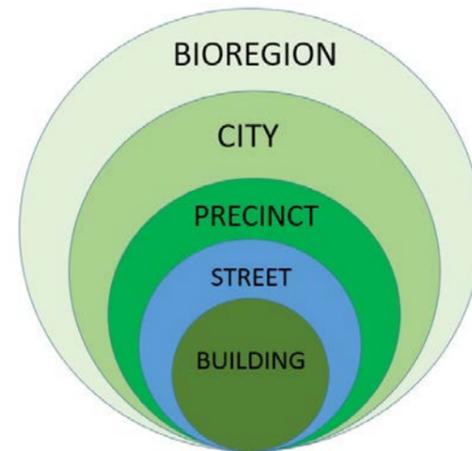


Figure 1: Biophilic Design at different scales

### 2. To explore and define the indicators and processes below:

- Barriers and drivers to biophilic design;
- Levels of performance in different climatic conditions;
- Awareness and perception among stakeholders;
- Incentives, tax rebates, support provided to local initiatives;
- Planning process frameworks for enabling biophilic design at different scales.

### Initial Results

- **The strategies, initiatives and trends build evidence to support biophilic urban design at different scales: bioregion, city, precincts, streets and buildings (Figure 1).**
- **Innovative structures and designs lead the way to a wider uptake of**

*biophilic strategies.*

- **Successful biophilic projects influence and enable policy change and provide evidence-base solutions to address global environmental issues through responsible, nature-focused design.**



Figure 2: Biophilic Design informing Bioregional Planning - Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.



Figure 3: Biophilic regeneration of derelict urban infrastructure - High Line in New York.



Figure 4: Biophilic streets, lanes, alleys.



Figure 5: Regeneration and repurposing of sumps and wetlands in urban environment - innovative biophilic infrastructure - White Gum Valley, WA.

### Further information

Agata Cabanek  
 Curtin University Sustainability Policy  
 agata.cabanek@postgrad.curtin.edu.au  
 Twitter: @Agata\_Cabanek